

## Mayor's Message

December 2008

In a recent poll in the Deseret News, people were asked what they were anticipating giving as charitable donations during the holiday season. I was impressed to see that 63% planned to share with others in some way, with 20% saying they were planning to do more than they had done in past years. The article went on to list many organizations who are hoping to meet the needs of those requesting help.

The other day I saw a little boy out shopping with his grandmother. He had \$5 he had saved to purchase gifts. His desire was to buy a gift for someone listed on the Angel Tree at the store. He had carefully selected an item he knew the recipient would enjoy and was standing in line to pay for the purchase. Because he was so young, he did not realize his \$5 would only cover about a quarter of the cost of the gift. His grandmother artfully worked with the cashier to make the little boy feel he had paid for the present. When he joyfully ran to put it under the tree, she slipped the cashier the remaining money. I was so touched by his desire to help another child in need.

We can all capture the wonderful spirit of the holidays by being willing to help others in whatever small way we can. I love to see neighbors bringing in the trash can for someone else on their street or shoveling snow when it may be difficult for someone to do it. If we have the resources to share, I hope we will do so. If we have the ability to wave and spread good cheer, we should do that. My hope is that we will all look for ways to help those around us so we may enjoy a wonderful feeling in our neighborhoods. I wish you all a very happy holiday season!